United Nations S 2010/262

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 May 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 28 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 19 May 2010, under agenda item: "Peace and Security in Africa", the President of the Republic of Djibouti, during his address to the Security Council, made several accusations against Eritrea, including the allegation that Eritrea is involved in "... a systematic campaign to destabilize [his] country by training infiltrators". Eritrea categorically rejects such unfounded accusations. Eritrea has never involved itself with issues that are entirely internal to the Republic of Djibouti. The existence of armed opposition in Djibouti is a common knowledge, virtually since its emergence as a nation in 1977. Therefore, this has nothing to do with the current misunderstanding between the two countries.

With respect to the position paper submitted by Eritrea to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee in April 2010, it is an account of the series of events that led to the unprovoked attack on Eritrea and the circumstances surrounding the condemnation of my country. It should be recalled that definitive judgement was handed down before the United Nations fact-finding mission was dispatched to the region with the mandate to ascertain facts on the ground in an unbiased and equitable manner. Obviously, the Government of Djibouti cannot claim to be the aggrieved party on an outcome of a flawed procedure.

In a forward looking manner, what is at stake is the maintenance of regional peace and security. In this regard, it would have been useful had the President of the Republic of Djibouti chosen his time at the Chamber of the Security Council to share the recent efforts of some neighbouring countries in addressing the Djibouti-Eritrea issue. Nonetheless, Eritrea, desirous of good neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence with its brothers and sisters in Djibouti, will remain committed to the ongoing diplomatic efforts of our common friends in addressing issues of common concern.

I would be most grateful if the letter could be circulated as a document of the United Nations Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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